

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 DRC-01 /140 W

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R 190545Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5906

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 6444

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES LAO-THAI RELATIONS

IN PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: FBIS BANGKOK 181557 SEP 73

1. REFERENCE CONTAINS ACCOUNT OF PRESS CONFERENCE HELD
BY PRIME MINISTER WITH 31 THAI JOURNALISTS SEPTMBER 18.

2. THIS ACCOUNT, HOWEVER, OMITTED TWO TOPICS DISCUSSED
BY SOUVANNA WHICH WERE REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS. ACCORD-
ING TO PRESS SOURCES, SOUVANNA STATED, "THE THAI MERCENARIES
MUST BE WITHDRAWN FROM LAOS WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE NEW
GOVERNMENT IS FORMED."

3. PRIME MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT ABORTIVE
COUP OF AUGUST 20 WOULD HAVE NO SERIOUS REPERCUSSION IN
LAO-THAI RELATIONS. PRIME MINISTER REMARKED THAT HE
BELIEVED ASSURANCES THAN OM HAD GIVEN HIM IN THIS REGARD. HOWEVER,
PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT, "IT IS NOW UP TO BANGKOK TO
RESPOND TO THE LAO REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF PERPETRATORS
OF THE ABORTIVE COUP, WHO ARE CURRENTLY IN REFUGE IN
THAILAND. IF BANGKOK REFUSES, RLG WILL DEMAND THAT THAI-
LAND EXPEL THESE INDIVIDUALS FROM ITS TERRITORY, AS WAS
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DONE IN REGARD TO FORMER BURMESE PRIME MINISTER U NU."

4. COMMENT: EXTRADITION REQUEST IS AIMED PRIMARILY AT
FORMER FAR COLONEL BOUNLEUT SAYCOCIE, WHOSE RETURN THE
LAO HAVE BEEN DEMANDING SINCE EARLIER ABORTIVE COUP
ATTEMPT IN DECEMBER 1970.
WHITEHOUSE

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